



Evans Water and Sewer Board

Evans Community Complex
Council Chambers
1100 37th Street, Evans, Colorado

Time and Date: December 17, 2020 @ 3:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL – 03:30 pm

Chairman: Jeff Oyler – present
Vice-Chairman: Glenn Snyder – present
Commissioners: Randy Blewer – not present
Brett Bloom – present
Michael Thuener
Ex-Officio Members:
Mayor: Brian Rudy – present
City Manager: Jim Becklenberg – not present

City Staff:

Randy Ready, Public Works Director
Scott Krob, City Attorney
Mark Oberschmidt, City Engineer
Scott Sandridge, Operations & Parks Manager
Robby Porsch, Wastewater Superintendent
Rick Pickard, Senior Civil Engineer
Karen Sabin, Public Works Administrative Specialist

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 03:31 pm

Approval of minutes from 10.15.2020 regular board meeting

****Motion to approve 10.15.2020 Minutes. Second. Passes unanimously.**

3. OTHER ITEMS

A. Water Law Discussion (Scott Krob, City Attorney) – 03:32 pm

First session is about the history and basics of water law. There will be a second meeting talking about how all this applies to Evans after the new year. See .pptx presentation for details.

Question: Do the different districts control the well water?

Answer: Wells and ground water – two types: tributary and non-tributary groundwater. Tributary is water that would end up in a stream in the next 100 years. Non-tributary water is very deep. Located mostly in the eastern part of the state. Wells in the Evans area are tributary wells. Drilled in the alluvium of the stream. They are all administered as part of the surface water. Virtually all wells in Division 1 are the same, and they are treated the same as a ditch right. If you drill a well and take water of the system, you would have to augment that well by putting water back in the system.

Question: If you drill deep enough to get into an aquifer, can you bypass that?

Answer: Yes. It has to be a non-tributary aquifer. A lot of those wells are 800 to 1000 feet deep. If you drilled that deep in Evans, you probably wouldn't hit an aquifer. Non-tributary water belongs to the landowner. If you own land in east

Colorado, you own the water that runs underneath it. Most people cannot afford to drill that deeply, so farmers and ranchers often pool their resources and share one well that is independent of the appropriation system.

B. 2021 Work Program Preview – 04:15 pm

1. Capital Projects (Mark Oberschmidt)

This coming year we will be working on design. Three waterline replacement projects. Have eight urgent project that are high risk for the City to have potential emergency repairs. We have spaced those out over a few years as budget allows and we are starting on the top three this year. 35th and 39th Street are being redone in an effort to get the main lines out of intersections. Currently we have five crossing of highway 85. We'd like to eliminate the one at 37th and upgrade the one at 35th and 39th. 40th Street is older, but not as old as the one on 39th Street. If we do look to abandon that in the future, we would just run pipe up and meet the newer one at 39th. May need to upsize the pipe at that point. The fewer crossings we have under the highway the better. New pipe—plastic—tends to have a longer life than ductile iron like was used in the past. We'd like to design the system so that if we have to shut one pipe down, we can back feed it to a different one and make sure we maintain water flow. We're looking to design these in 2021 and start construction in 2022. If budget allows, we'll start another few projects in 2022 and continue over the next 10 years.

Question: Are we going to lose water pressure with newer bigger pipes?

Answer: No. We're upsizing an 8-inch to 12-inch and creating a loop that will collect more water, so we'll have more water flowing through there. Pressure will be fine.

Tract O Tuscany: Contractor is going to mobilize right after the first of the year. That non-potable system should be done and tested this spring and ready to go by this irrigation system. Houses and mutli-family housing in that area will all be served by that non-potable system. It will save the City a bunch of money as far as reaching our potable water cap with the City of Greeley.

We are looking at doing a feasibility study and will hopefully get a consultant on board by end of 2021. The study will be on whether we can service the area south of the river. We'll be looking at that area and what infrastructure is there, but we will also look at the land uses that are set to be in existence in that area when developed. The City's Master Plan is being updated, so we are watching that growth management area during the update.

Along with that, we are going to update our water model. It was last updated in 2016. We need to update it so we can better plan for developments that are coming in—like Peakview—that will require extensive infrastructure. An updated water model will help us look at those types of questions as development happens. A consultant will help us set up the model so that staff can run it once we get the hang of it.

Also looking to talk to Central Weld about a potential partnership. They have infrastructure on the south side of the river. It might be undersized; we might need an 8- or 12-inch line where they currently have a 4-inch. It would help the City develop without having to take on the expense of taking infrastructure across the river.

Question: At this point we don't do anything with Central weld?

Answer: All our water comes from the City of Greeley. If we can diversify our water portfolio and get money at normal demand rates instead of the high demand rates that Greeley will charge, we could save the City money.

31st Street Storm Sewer: Our goal is to get that under construction in spring of 2021. Clean out and add a few structures for better water flow management and increase the amount of water we can take off the street.

Detention pond in front of Kum & Go: Located in between trees and highways. Vacated that ROW but dedicated it as a drainage easement. Will be a detention pond. It will help the stormwater pipes not surcharge as much as they are currently.

35th Street/Heritage outfall to river: This will be a large pipe extending east across 1st Avenue underneath RR all the way to the river that will help reduce the flooding that occurs in that area. We are replacing a 24-inch pipe with a much larger one. Normally CDOT would like us to bore under the highway, but we convinced them that due to soil conditions, boring was high risk for road settling. Instead, we are going to do it with an open trench and flow fill it when we are done.

Question: Will we have a chance to inspect the stormwater line at 31st?

Answer: Looking to schedule a time to clean it all out. We will probably be doing that middle part of January or so.

Question: Is 37th Street stormwater cleared out?

Answer: We did a substantial portion of it, but not sure how far they got. Water comes down 37th street itself, we can't control that. But water that comes off the City lot and the industrial area south of us overtops St. Vrain. We may adjust the detention pond here on our property and then take it under the street. That would relieve some of the pressure that is happening on the east side as a short-term solution. A long-term solution is installing a very large pipe at St. Vrain and 39th and taking it south to the river so it never even makes it to the highway.

2. Operations

- Water (Rick Pickard) **04:36 pm**

NISP: NISP is now happening. It is not longer a concept, it's a reality. 2020 work was below budget, so we have money to carry forward to 2021. Evans reduced



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participation in NISP from 1600 af to 1200 af. That Agreement was just completed – paid us \$705,000. It is currently a buyer's market, not a seller's market; it's hard to make a profit right now. Low-interest long term loan is being considered as a funding source for construction. Had been looking at just bonds, but this federal loan is very encouraging. Mitigation efforts on Poudre River; the bypass allows fish to go back upstream and the fish are using it. The project had to get several permits.

Federal: ROD was submitted and we are projecting February 2021 approval of this. Opponents of the project may file a case against us to delay it or get it overturned. Windy Gap project has been given a favorable ruling on their ROD. Since ours is similar in nature, we stand a good chance of prevailing if they tried to take us to court.

State: 401 water quality certification permit was approved. Objection case was filed by opponents. Our permit was recently unanimously upheld by the courts.

Larimer County: 1041 permit. Approved by commissioners. We haven't heard that opponents are going to try to contest it at the County level.

The original time for review for the Record of Decision (ROD) approval ended in November, but the Army Corp. wanted additional time. Design activities will continue this year. Selection of the GM/GC is in the process; we are down to two candidates for this. We expect to make a final decision in first quarter.

Highway 287 relocation design continues. Had to make some changes to where it was. We also need to acquire the land, which is progressing. The area where the water comes off the river and settlement design has begun (forebay). That process is looking at a number of environmental issues and water quality issues. We have contacted mitigation firms. We can buy a portion of their bank instead of trying to build our own.

We are also acquiring pipeline easements. There's been discussion of expanded or continued communication to members, boards, councils, even opponents. What can Northern Water do to help us out? There were some really good ideas. We want to concentrate our publicity on our customers/residents. We want our customers to know that we are working toward water efficiency. We want to build relationships, especially with opponents. We want to invite Northern to come over and make their presentation on communication.

NISP staff has been very effective on the permitting process. Want to develop our own message to customers and residents that explains why NISP is important to Evans. We can talk about the recent fires, water quality issues/rehabilitation of burned areas. Basically, we want to promote the benefits to people.

This is probably the last new source of water in Colorado. And it will also provide storage during drought conditions; we get 4.25 times our membership of 1200 af in drought storage. The river will be better when we are done. We need to

advertise that. NISP lessens our reliance on native and CBT water, and it is environmentally responsible. We have challenged ourselves to communicate better.

- **Wastewater (Robby Porsch) 04:50 pm**
Projects: Our two big projects in 2021 are emergency overflow reconstruction. The original pond liner has never worked; we are reconstructing it out of concrete for emergency storage. All this is part of the decommissioning plan. We will remove all biological material and no longer have to permit it.

Annual rolling projects: major repairs, manhole reconstruction, pipe lining, and annual solids handling which is budgeted for \$300k. At the 2020 rates, that would get us about 375 tons of solids. We are working on annual building of funds toward plant equipment repair for larger pieces of equipment as well as major structure maintenance and/or replacement if something happens.

We are still working on capacity expansion.

Operations: The contractor is still working on jetting and camera at Hill n Park. 39k feet cleaned and TVd. This information will feed directly into spot repair and manhole repair projects for 2021.

438 tons of solids was removed. 200 tons was a rollover from 2019 project that they couldn't complete due to weather (frozen ponds). Just completed east wasting lagoon yesterday.

Source sampling projects. We have spent multiple months comparing flow from the two drainage basins (HnP and old Evans). The Evans basin is the culprit. Got another portable sampler into the two main interceptors that feed that lift station to try to narrow it down from there. With that extra sampler, we can go upstream and downstream of a suspect contributor and confirm exactly what is happening.

Work plan for 2021 includes jetting, working in Industrial Park, Platte Industrial Center, old Evans on the east side of tracks, Carriage Estate (Weld County that we service), North Point, The Landings, Willowbrook, and Ridge at Prairie View. We will also finalize the industrial pretreatment code. We should have that before you to take a look at in late January to February. Once we sample areas and figure out who our main contributors are, we can use that Code to even it out.

- **Operations (Scott Sandridge) 04:58 pm.**
Operations just hired new water foreman who will start January 4. He brings a lot of experience and we are excited to have him.

We've been given funding to purchase new antenna for meters. A big operational cost is monthly shut offs. We are testing about 40 of those meters, but installation has been postponed due to COVID. Hopefully we can get the antenna installed in



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next month or so and begin piloting the system. Average shut off volume is about 140 a month, which takes us 3 to 4 days depending on the time so year. Remote shutoff will allow us to do it from computer in office.

Question: Do you have to replace meters?

Answer: Yes. We're going to target repeat offenders first. At the most it will be about 150 meters. We can reuse the meters we pull. It will be significant savings if you look at hours and trucks, and the meters will be repurposed.

Comment: That's a lot of time, and those people aren't very happy

Response: Yes.

Question: What are the man-hours for a meter changeout?

Answer: It's about an hour to hour-and-a-half, including on-site programming.

The groundbreaking out at Peakview will be a big deal as well. We're looking forward to it. As that comes online the next step will be where do we need to look for an antenna location for our radio read system. We've never had an issue with the antenna location on 35th avenue, but we'll need to look at a second one.

Question: What about the school out at 65th, could you put it there?

Answer: We are looking at that, as well as potential opportunities to partner with cellular companies that have towers already built. Census is able to tell us what a prime location would be.

Tuscany non-potable system and the pump station there will be a big project too, as well as the Willowbrook non-potable system that we bought. We've helped them over the years, so we have user knowledge, but we'll now be the operators.

Water conservation is becoming a big deal. We're in the process of applying for a grant to re-landscape some stuff out in front of the City Complex using low water use design. There is an opportunity through Northern Water. We got a grant from them last year and used it to re-landscape the entrance to the cemetery.

Question: Can we get people to eliminate high water toilets and stuff like that? I know Greeley does that.

Answer: Planning is looking at that as part of the water chapter of the Master Plan. They have found a grant opportunity for toilets, shower heads, etc., as part of that process.

Stormwater: In 2019 we jetted about 7k feet stormwater. This year we did about 18k feet of pipe. That puts us on about a five-year rotation. That's about right, but it may change as we grow. We haven't gotten the footage back from this year yet, they are just finishing up. We saw some small issues in 2019 footage, but nothing big. This year with so much more footage, we will have a maintenance project to handle issues that we see. We did make it across the highway this



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year. In 2021, we'll probably get from the highway to 17th or 23rd avenue. We're expecting pipe quality to increase as we move west because pipe is newer.

The City of Greeley just transferred 17 Greeley customers to Evans. These are old County customers along 49th and 37th Streets and 47th Avenue in construction zones. Water rights will come with them.

Question: How much water?

Answer: Eight shares of GLIC and a half share of CBT.

05:13 pm

****Motion to adjourn. Second. Passes unanimously.**

Adjourned 05:13 pm